Solar Schools Toolkit:
The Philadelphia Solar Energy Association

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Course: POLSB420 with Marissa Golden
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Background:
The Philadelphia Solar Energy Association (PSEA) is a local non-profit whose goal is to “promote the rapid adoption of solar energy across the state.” The volunteer-based organization promotes solar adoption through policy, events, and education. With new solar incentives in the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, the PSEA has been developing a digital toolkit to help schools across the state implement solar energy systems.

Toolkit Work:
Though I worked on several projects with the PSEA, the Solar Schools Toolkit was a main focus. My contributions included:
• Editing assistance for clarity and legibility.
• Formatting and indexing.
• Sourcing images of photovoltaic (PV) systems and components.
• Research on niche topics such as electric school busses.
I also assisted with PSEA website content, contest organization, and an exhibit opening.

Takeaways:
Overall, my time with the PSEA was a wonderful learning experience:
• I developed a collaborative-document building skillset.
• I became familiar with industry regulations and terminology.
• I honed my research and editing skills.
• I learned to better work collaboratively through complex scheduling and remote meetings.
• Gained an understanding of how state and federal grant opportunities are closely linked with non-profit policy writing scope.

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